

A NEW MARSH SPECIES OF ERICA.

by

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Erica riparia H. A. Baker sp. nov. (Ericaceae-Ericoideae) § Ceramia.

Planta diffusa palustris vel riparia, circa ad 1.2 m. in longitudine. *Rami* graciles rigiduli, pilis longis brevibusque admixtis induti. *Folia* ternata, 2.5 mm. longa, plana, margine revoluta, nunc ovata nunc elliptica, marginibus pilis et longis debilibus et brevissimi admixtis ciliata. *Flores* terminales, acervatim 3—12-nati, frequenter circa 6-nati. *Pedunculi* 3 mm. longi, pilis admixtis hirsuti; bractee 3, parvae ovato-lanceolatae, sub-approximatae, sicut folia revolutae et ciliatae. *Sepala* ovato-lanceolata ad lanceolata, 1.25—1.5 mm. longa, viscida, purpureo-rubra, revoluta vel plana, sicut folia ciliata et marginibus interioribus pilis paucis brevibus glandulosis induta. *Corolla* globosa 2.5 mm.—3 mm. longa, viscida, purpureo-rubra, pilis admixtis hirsuta; lobi parvi erecti obtusi. *Filamenta* complanata; antherae exsertae, 1 mm. longae, scabridae nigrae muticae, basaliter dorsifixae. *Ovarium* hispidum 2 mm. longum, 1.5 mm. latum: stylus longus, exsertus, stigmatae parvo.

A straggling marsh or streamside plant up to about 1.2 m. in length. *Branches* slender, somewhat rigid, hirsute with mixed hairs. *Leaves* 3-nate, open-backed, revolute, ovate to elliptic, ciliate on the margins with long weak hairs and very short hairs intermixed. *Flowers* terminal in clusters of from 3 to 12 flowers, commonly about 6. *Peduncles* 3 mm. long, hirsute with mixed hairs: bracts 3, small, ovate-lanceolate, sub-approximate, revolute and ciliate like the leaves. *Sepals* ovate-lanceolate to lanceolate, 1.25 to 1.5 mm. long, viscid, purplish-red, revolute or flat and ciliate like the leaves with a few short gland-tipped hairs admixed. *Corolla* globose, 2.5 to 3 mm. long, viscid, purplish-red, hirsute with rather short mixed hairs; lobes small, erect, obtuse. *Filaments* flattened; anthers exserted, scabrid, black, muticous, basically dorsifixed. *Ovary* hispid, 2 mm. long, 1.5 mm. broad: style well exserted: stigma small.

CAPE PROVINCE: Caledon Div. N.E. of Avoca, *Baker* 1163, *holotype* in Bolus Herbarium, Baviaanskloof, *Stokoe* 7464, *Baker* 1264; Bredasdorp Div.; Brandfontein, *Esterhuizen* 19090, 19107. Flowers Sept.-Oct.

This plant was collected by the author in October 1956 in tall reeds and grasses at the edge of a small stream crossing the Gaansbaai-Stanford

road just N.E. of Avoca. Only one small interwoven group of plants was found here and a search up and down the stream and in the river at the bottom revealed no more specimens. The altitude is approximately 250 ft. It has been collected twice before; by Esterhuizen (19107 & 19090) at Brandfontein in a swamp at the top of a low hill near the sea beyond Gunners' point and by Stokoe (7464) on the farm Baviaanskloof near Gaansbaai. The author also collected it near this farm (*Baker* 1264) in September 1957 in a very small seepage almost at the top of the kloof at about 1000 ft., but only in this one small area in spite of many other apparently suitable places nearby. Here there are many plants mingled with a tangle of other vegetation. It is curious that on this date the plants at the Avoca site, which is much lower, were far less advanced than those in Baviaanskloof which were at their best.

E. riparia is similar in habit to many of the marsh-loving heaths in the § *Ephebus*, many of which seem to have become isolated, each in its own individual marsh, though they all have characteristics that suggest a common origin. Although probably confined to a few damp places in the Caledon and Bredasdorp Divisions, it is not so definitely local and,



FIG. 1—*Erica riparia* H. A. Baker (Natural Size) *Baker* 1163. Del. H. A. Baker.

apart from its habit of seeking support from the surrounding vegetation, it is not closely related to them in any way.

The specimens from the Gaansbaai district (*Stokoe* 7464, *Baker*

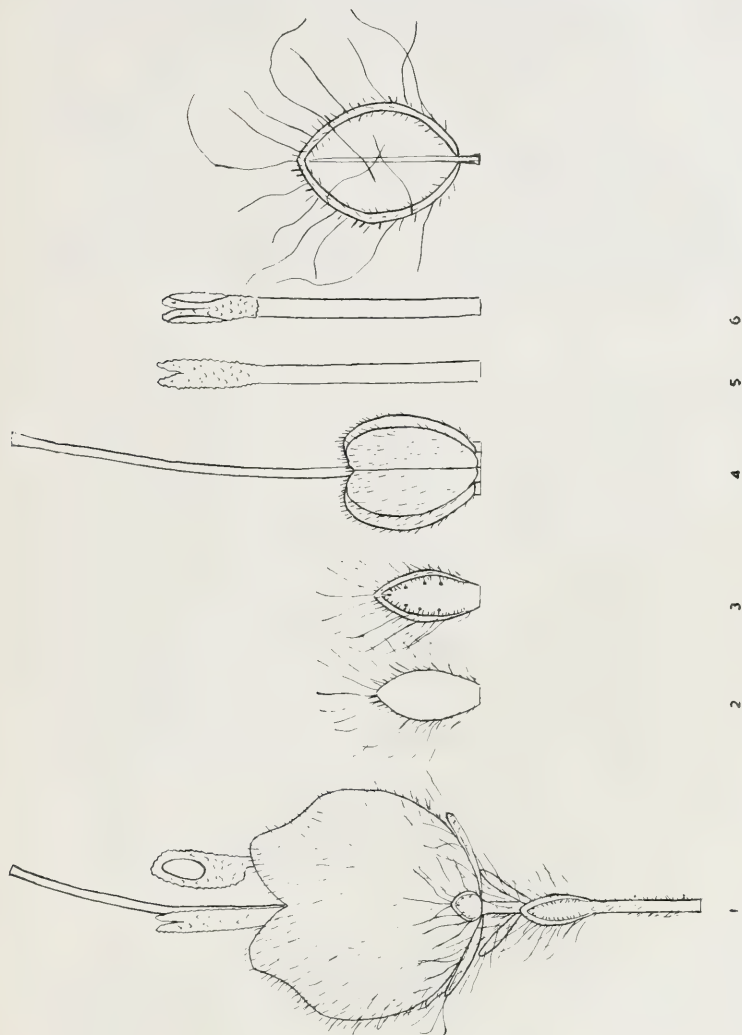


FIG. 2.—*Erica riparia* H. A. Baker. 1. flower, 2. sepal, inside, 3. sepal, outside, 4. gynoeceum, 5. anther, back view, 6. anther, front view, 7. leaf, inside view. All $\times 12$. Del. H. A. Baker.

1163 & 1264) are generally similar except that the internodes in 1264 are much closer than in 1163, possibly because the plants are not quite so overwhelmed by other vegetation and get more sun. But the Esterhuizen specimens from Brandfontein, which is 30 miles away, show signs of differentiation, e.g. (a) the sepals are lanceolate, longer and not revolute, (b) there are gland-tipped ciliate hairs on the peduncle and the bracts, (c) the filaments are broader and (d) the ovary has longer hairs.

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